

**DISSEMINATING, EXHIBITING, OR DISPLAYING SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATTER TO
MINORS (EXCERPT)
Act 33 of 1978**

**PART I
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATTER**

722.671 Definitions generally.

Sec. 1. As used in this part:

- (a) "Display" means to put or set out to view or to make visible.
- (b) "Disseminate" means to sell, lend, give, exhibit, show, or allow to examine or to offer or agree to do the same.
- (c) "Exhibit" means to do 1 or more of the following:
 - (i) Present a performance.
 - (ii) Sell, give, or offer to agree to sell or give a ticket to a performance.
 - (iii) Admit a minor to premises where a performance is being presented or is about to be presented.
- (d) "Minor" means a person less than 18 years of age.
- (e) "Restricted area" means any of the following:
 - (i) An area where sexually explicit matter is displayed only in a manner that prevents public view of the lower 2/3 of the matter's cover or exterior.
 - (ii) A building, or a distinct and enclosed area or room within a building, if access by minors is prohibited, notice of the prohibition is prominently displayed, and access is monitored to prevent minors from entering.
 - (iii) An area with at least 75% of its perimeter surrounded by walls or solid, nontransparent dividers that are sufficiently high to prevent a minor in a nonrestricted area from viewing sexually explicit matter within the perimeter if the point of access provides prominent notice that access to minors is prohibited.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004;—Am. 2005, Act 108, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005.

722.671a Repealed. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to definitions; "C" to "I."

722.672 Additional definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this part:

- (a) "Nudity" means the lewd display of the human male or female genitals or pubic area.
- (b) "Sexual excitement" means the condition of human male or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal.
- (c) "Erotic fondling" means touching a person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or, if the person is female, breasts, for the purpose of sexual gratification or stimulation.
- (d) "Sadomasochistic abuse" means either of the following:
 - (i) Flagellation, or torture, for sexual stimulation or gratification, by or upon a person who is nude or clad only in undergarments or in a revealing or bizarre costume.
 - (ii) The condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained for sexual stimulation or gratification, of a person who is nude or clad only in undergarments or in a revealing or bizarre costume.
- (e) "Sexual intercourse" means intercourse, real or simulated, whether genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex or between a human and an animal.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 2005, Act 108, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005.

722.673 Definitions.

Sec. 3. As used in this part:

- (a) "Computer" means any connected, directly interoperable or interactive device, equipment, or facility that uses a computer program or other instructions to perform specific operations including logical, arithmetic, or memory functions with or on computer data or a computer program and that can store, retrieve, alter, or communicate the results of the operations to a person, computer program, computer, computer system, or computer network.
- (b) "Computer network" means the interconnection of hardwire or wireless communication lines with a computer through remote terminals, or a complex consisting of 2 or more interconnected computers.
- (c) "Computer program" means a series of internal or external instructions communicated in a form acceptable to a computer that directs the functioning of a computer, computer system, or computer network in

a manner designed to provide or produce products or results from the computer, computer system, or computer network.

(d) "Computer system" means a set of related, connected or unconnected, computer equipment, devices, software, or hardware.

(e) "Device" includes, but is not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, electrochemical, biochemical, hydraulic, optical, or organic object that performs input, output, or storage functions by the manipulation of electronic, magnetic, or other impulses.

(f) "Sexually explicit matter" means sexually explicit visual material, sexually explicit verbal material, or sexually explicit performance.

(g) "Sexually explicit performance" means a motion picture, video game, exhibition, show, representation, or other presentation that, in whole or in part, depicts nudity, sexual excitement, erotic fondling, sexual intercourse, or sadomasochistic abuse.

(h) "Sexually explicit verbal material" means a book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter reproduced in any manner, or sound recording that contains an explicit and detailed verbal description or narrative account of sexual excitement, erotic fondling, sexual intercourse, or sadomasochistic abuse.

(i) "Sexually explicit visual material" means a picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, video game, or similar visual representation that depicts nudity, sexual excitement, erotic fondling, sexual intercourse, or sadomasochistic abuse, or a book, magazine, or pamphlet that contains such a visual representation. An undeveloped photograph, mold, or similar visual material may be sexually explicit material notwithstanding that processing or other acts may be required to make its sexually explicit content apparent.

(j) "Video game" means an object or device that stores recorded data or instructions generated by a person who uses it, and by processing the data or instructions creates an interactive game capable of being played, viewed, or experienced on or through a computer, gaming system, game console, or other technology.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 1999, Act 33, Eff. Aug. 1, 1999;—Am. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004;—Am. 2005, Act 104, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005;—Am. 2005, Act 107, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005.

Constitutionality: Act 33 of 1999 violates the First Amendment and the Dormant Commerce Clause of the US Constitution. Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from enforcing any provisions of 1999 PA 33. Cyberspace Communications, Inc v. Engler, 142 F Supp 2d 827 (ED Mich, 2001).

722.674 Additional definitions.

Sec. 4. As used in this part:

(a) "Harmful to minors" means sexually explicit matter that meets all of the following criteria:

(i) Considered as a whole, it appeals to the prurient interest of minors as determined by contemporary local community standards.

(ii) It is patently offensive to contemporary local community standards of adults as to what is suitable for minors.

(iii) Considered as a whole, it lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational, and scientific value for minors.

(b) "Local community" means the county in which the matter was disseminated.

(c) "Prurient interest" means a lustful interest in sexual stimulation or gratification. In determining whether sexually explicit matter appeals to the prurient interest, the matter shall be judged with reference to average 17-year-old minors. If it appears from the character of the matter that it is designed to appeal to the prurient interest of a particular group of persons, including, but not limited to, homosexuals or sadomasochists, then the matter shall be judged with reference to average 17-year-old minors within the particular group for which it appears to be designed.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 2005, Act 108, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005.

722.675 Disseminating sexually explicit matter to minor; felony; penalty.

Sec. 5. (1) A person is guilty of disseminating sexually explicit matter to a minor if that person does either of the following:

(a) Knowingly disseminates to a minor sexually explicit visual or verbal material that is harmful to minors.

(b) Knowingly exhibits to a minor a sexually explicit performance that is harmful to minors.

(2) A person knowingly disseminates sexually explicit matter to a minor if the person knows both the nature of the matter and the status of the minor to whom the matter is disseminated.

(3) A person knows the nature of matter if the person either is aware of its character and content or recklessly disregards circumstances suggesting its character and content.

(4) A person knows the status of a minor if the person either is aware that the person to whom the dissemination is made is under 18 years of age or recklessly disregards a substantial risk that the person to

whom the dissemination is made is under 18 years of age.

(5) Disseminating sexually explicit matter to a minor is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both. In imposing the fine, the court shall consider the scope of the defendant's commercial activity in disseminating sexually explicit matter to minors.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 1999, Act 33, Eff. Aug. 1, 1999;—Am. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

Constitutionality: Act 33 of 1999 violates the First Amendment and the Dormant Commerce Clause of the US Constitution. Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from enforcing any provisions of 1999 PA 33. Cyberspace Communications, Inc v. Engler, 142 F Supp 2d 827 (ED Mich, 2001).

722.676 Persons excepted from MCL 722.675.

Sec. 6. Section 5 does not apply to the dissemination of sexually explicit matter to a minor by any of the following:

(a) A parent or guardian who disseminates sexually explicit matter to his or her child or ward unless the dissemination is for the sexual gratification of the parent or guardian.

(b) A teacher or administrator at a public or private elementary or secondary school that complies with the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, and who disseminates sexually explicit matter to a student as part of a school program permitted by law.

(c) A licensed physician or licensed psychologist who disseminates sexually explicit matter in the treatment of a patient.

(d) A librarian employed by a library of a public or private elementary or secondary school that complies with the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1 to 380.1852, or employed by a public library, who disseminates sexually explicit matter in the course of that person's employment.

(e) Any public or private college or university or any other person who disseminates sexually explicit matter for a legitimate medical, scientific, governmental, or judicial purpose.

(f) A person who disseminates sexually explicit matter that is a public document, publication, record, or other material issued by a state, local, or federal official, department, board, commission, agency, or other governmental entity, or an accurate republication of such a public document, publication, record, or other material.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 1999, Act 33, Eff. Aug. 1, 1999;—Am. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004;—Am. 2005, Act 245, Eff. Feb. 1, 2006.

Constitutionality: Act 33 of 1999 violates the First Amendment and the Dormant Commerce Clause of the US Constitution. Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from enforcing any provisions of 1999 PA 33. Cyberspace Communications, Inc v. Engler, 142 F Supp 2d 827 (ED Mich, 2001).

722.677 Displaying sexually explicit matter to minor; misdemeanor; penalty.

Sec. 7. (1) A person is guilty of displaying sexually explicit matter to a minor if that person possesses managerial responsibility for a business enterprise selling sexually explicit visual material that visually depicts sexual intercourse or sadomasochistic abuse and is harmful to minors, and that person does either of the following:

(a) Knowingly permits a minor who is not accompanied by a parent or guardian to view that matter.

(b) Displays that matter knowing its nature, unless the person does so in a restricted area.

(2) A person knowingly permits a minor to view visual matter that depicts sexual intercourse or sadomasochistic abuse and is harmful to minors if the person knows both the nature of the matter and the status of the minor permitted to examine the matter.

(3) A person knows the nature of the matter if the person either is aware of its character and content or recklessly disregards circumstances suggesting its character and content.

(4) A person knows the status of a minor if the person either is aware that the person who is permitted to view the matter is under 18 years of age or recklessly disregards a substantial risk that the person who is permitted to view the matter is under 18 years of age.

(5) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978;—Am. 1999, Act 33, Eff. Aug. 1, 1999;—Am. 2003, Act 192, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

Constitutionality: Act 33 of 1999 violates the First Amendment and the Dormant Commerce Clause of the US Constitution. Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from enforcing any provisions of 1999 PA 33. Cyberspace Communications, Inc v. Engler, 142 F Supp 2d 827 (ED Mich, 2001).

722.678 Facilitative misrepresentation; misdemeanor; penalty.

Sec. 8. (1) A person is guilty of facilitative misrepresentation when that person knowingly makes a false representation that he or she is the parent or guardian of a minor, or that a minor is 18 years of age or older,

with the intent to facilitate the dissemination to the minor of sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors.

(2) A person knowingly makes a false representation as to the age of a minor or as to the status of being the parent or guardian of a minor if the person either is aware that the representation is false or recklessly disregards a substantial risk that the representation is false.

(3) Facilitative misrepresentation is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.679 Injunction.

Sec. 9. A prosecuting attorney may commence an action in the circuit court against a person, other than a person described in section 6, to enjoin that person from disseminating to a minor sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.680 Advisory opinion as to legality of disseminating sexually explicit matter to minor; action for declaratory judgment; prosecuting attorney as defendant; counterclaim for injunctive relief; dismissal of action.

Sec. 10. (1) A person intending to disseminate to a minor matter that may be considered sexually explicit may request, from the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the dissemination is intended, an advisory opinion as to the legality of that dissemination. The request for an advisory opinion shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a reasonable and timely opportunity for the prosecuting attorney to examine the matter. Not more than 5 business days after receipt of a proper request, the prosecuting attorney shall issue to the person making the request an advisory opinion, or a refusal to issue an advisory opinion, in writing. The advisory opinion shall state in unequivocal terms whether knowing dissemination of the matter to a minor would be considered by the prosecuting attorney to violate section 5.

(2) A person who has requested an advisory opinion may commence an action for a declaratory judgment in the circuit court in the same county to obtain an adjudication of the legality of the intended dissemination if either of the following conditions exist:

(a) The action is commenced more than 5 business days after submission of a proper request, and the prosecuting attorney has failed to issue an advisory opinion.

(b) The prosecuting attorney has issued an advisory opinion and that opinion fails to state in unequivocal terms that knowing dissemination of the matter to a minor would not be considered by the prosecuting attorney to violate section 5.

(3) The prosecuting attorney shall be made the defendant to an action commenced pursuant to subsection (2). In responding to the complaint, the prosecuting attorney may join a counterclaim for the injunctive relief permitted under section 9.

(4) If the prosecuting attorney, after commencement of the action, issues an advisory opinion stating in unequivocal terms that knowing dissemination of the matter to a minor would not be considered by the prosecuting attorney to violate section 5, the action shall be dismissed.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.681 Provisions applicable to actions commenced pursuant to MCL 722.679 or MCL 722.680.

Sec. 11. The following provisions apply in an action commenced pursuant to section 9 or 10:

(a) The prosecuting attorney shall bear the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that knowing dissemination of the specified matter to a minor would violate section 5.

(b) Upon appropriate motion of the prosecuting attorney or order to show cause, the court may grant a preliminary injunction or ex parte restraining order. A person enjoined under this subdivision is entitled to a trial on the legality of the intended dissemination within 1 day after joinder of issue, and a decision shall be rendered by the court within 2 days after the conclusion of the trial.

(c) The prosecuting attorney shall not be required to file any security before the granting of a preliminary injunction or restraining order, shall not be liable for costs, and shall not be liable for damages sustained by reason of the preliminary injunction or restraining order.

(d) The proceedings are equitable in nature.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.682 Effect of MCL 722.679 to 722.681 on prosecutions under other laws; declaratory judgment or denial of injunction as defense; withdrawing opinion and obtaining injunction

as conditions for prosecution under MCL 722.675; applicability of declaratory judgment or injunction.

Sec. 12. (1) Except as provided in this section, sections 9 to 11 shall not preclude or impair prosecution for violation of any law of this state.

(2) If a declaratory judgment has been obtained pursuant to sections 10 and 11, or an application for an injunction pursuant to section 9 has been denied, on the ground that the knowing dissemination to a minor of specified matter does not violate section 5, that determination is a complete defense for a person against a prosecution under section 5 based upon the dissemination of that specified matter and against a prosecution for violation of a preliminary injunction or restraining order granted pursuant to section 11.

(3) If a prosecuting attorney issues an advisory opinion stating in unequivocal terms that knowing dissemination of specified matter to a minor is not considered by the prosecuting attorney to violate section 5, then the recipient of the opinion may be prosecuted under section 5 for the dissemination of that specified matter only after the prosecutor has both withdrawn the opinion and obtained an injunction pursuant to section 9 against the dissemination of that specified material by that person.

(4) A declaratory judgment or injunction shall apply only to the county in which the prosecuting attorney serves.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.682a Exceptions.

Sec. 12a. This part does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A medium of communication to the extent regulated by the federal communications commission.

(b) An internet service provider or computer network service provider that is not selling the sexually explicit matter being communicated but that provides the medium for communication of the matter. As used in this section, "internet service provider" means a person who provides a service that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail, or other services offered over the internet or a computer network.

(c) A person providing a subscription multichannel video service under terms of service that require the subscriber to meet both of the following conditions:

(i) The subscriber is not less than 18 years of age at the time of the subscription.

(ii) The subscriber proves that he or she is not less than 18 years of age through the use of a credit card, through the presentation of government-issued identification, or by other reasonable means of verifying the subscriber's age.

History: Add. 2005, Act 108, Eff. Dec. 1, 2005.

722.683 Repeal of MCL 750.343e.

Sec. 13. Section 343e of Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, being section 750.343e of the Compiled Laws of 1970, is repealed.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.

722.684 Effective date.

Sec. 14. This act shall not take effect until June 1, 1978.

History: 1978, Act 33, Eff. June 1, 1978.